

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 IGA-01 SAM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-02 /073 W

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P R 251502Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1404

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0534

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, ETRD, PFOR, MZ, US, RO

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE - WHEAT AND US AID TEAM

REF: A) DAR ES SALAAM 842; B) LOURENCO MARQUES 313

1. FOREIGN MINISTER VERNON MWAANGA TODAY DESCRIBED MOZAMBICAN FRIENDS TO ME AS "SHY" IF NOT AWKWARD IN FOREIGN RELATIONS AND DEPENDENT FREQUENTLY ON ZAMBIANS TO GET THEM OUT OF JAMS. MOST RECENT CASE IN POINT WAS ROMANIAN WHEAT PURCHASE. SAMORA MACHEL HAD PERSONALLY ARRANGED FOR 100,000 TON WHEAT PURCHASE FROM ROMANIANS DURING RECENT VISIT TO BUCHAREST. SHIPMENT HIT SNAG WHEN ROMANIANS INSISTED PORTUGAL GUARANTEE PAYMENT. GOP WILLING TO DO SO BUT NOT BEYOND JUNE 25. ABOUT THAT TIME MOZAMBICANS LEARNED THAT WHEAT WOULD BE COMING FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN JUST ROMANIA AND ROMANIANS STOOD TO MAKE MORE THAN 30 PERCENT PROFIT ON DEAL. ZAMBIANS HASTILY ENLISTED TO TAKE MOZAMBICANS OUT OF EMBARRASSING SITUATION.

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2. SWEDEN APPROACHED BY ZAMBIANS AND WILL SUPPLY 20,000

TONS, AUSTRALIANS ARE MAKING TOKEN OFFER OF 2,000 TONS
(7 DAY SUPPLY, MWAANGA COMMENTED) AND CANADIANS AND OTHERS
(UNIDENTIFIED) EXPECTED TO HELP OUT, BUT IT APPEARS MOZAMBIQUE
WILL STILL FALL SHORT OF DESIRED QUANTITY, ACCORDING TO MWAANGA.

3. I MENTIONED TO MINISTER THAT US HAD BEEN APPROACHED BUT
THEN BACKED AWAY FROM ON QUESTION OF SUPPLYING MOZAMBIQUE
WITH WHEAT (16,000 TONS UNDER PL-480). I ASSUMED SWITCH
RELATED TO THEN STILL FIRM ROMANIAN WHEAT DEAL. SAID I WAS
SURPRISED MOZAMBICANS WOULD NOT WANT TO REINSTATE A
CONCESSIONAL DEAL WITH US. MWAANGA VOLUNTEERED TO RAISE
QUESTION WITH MOZAMBICANS.

4. I THEN TOLD MWAANGA WE HAD AID ECONOMIC SURVEY TEAM
IN U.S. WAITING TO BE CALLED ON SCENE IN RESPONSE TO EARLY
OFFER WHEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY VISITED AFRICA. AGAIN
MWAANGA VOLUNTEERED TO RAISE MATTER WITH MOZAMBICANS
AND FACILITATE. I REITERATED U.S. POLICY THAT WE NOT TRYING TO
PUSH ASSISTANCE ON EMERGING INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT, OR
OVERWHELM IT, MERELY WANTED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THEIR
REQUIREMENTS TO EXTENT OUR RESOURCES AND CAPABILITIES.
MWAANGA AGAIN APOLOGIZED FOR AWKWARDNESS OF "OUR
MOZAMBICAN FRIENDS IN FOREIGN RELATIONS."
WILKOWSKI

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